

Spotlight on Sumter . . .

Sumter County was named for Revolutionary War General Thomas Sumter (1734-1832), who was a resident of the area. This part of the state began attracting English settlers from the lowcountry and from Virginia in the mid-eighteenth century. The area known as the High Hills of Santee, a narrow ridge along the Wateree River, was famous for its healthy climate and rich soil. Sumter County eventually became a leading agricultural region. In 1941, Shaw Air Force Base was established near Sumter, and it continues today as an active duty fighter base. Confederate General Richard Heron Anderson (1821-1879) was a Sumter resident, as were opera singer Clara Louise Kellogg (1842-1916) and educator Mary McLeod Bethune (1875-1955).

Sumter Workforce Center

29 E. Calhoun Street, P O Drawer 1978
Sumter, SC 29151
(803) 773-7359 / FAX: (803) 778-0390

Location & Climate

- Located in the central area of the state
- Surrounded by Kershaw, Lee, Florence, Clarendon, Calhoun, and Richland counties
- This region has an average temperature of 63.2 degrees with an annual average rainfall of 47.3 inches.

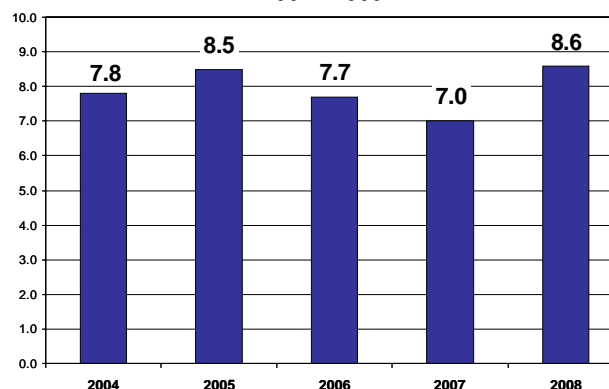
Population

- Was 104,010 in 2007
- Estimated growth to 109,900 by 2015
- 2007 data was comprised of 49.7% White, 47.7% African-American, and 2.6% Other
- The Hispanic-Latino population has increased from 1,918 in 2000 to 2,560 in 2007, a 33.5% change.

Labor Force

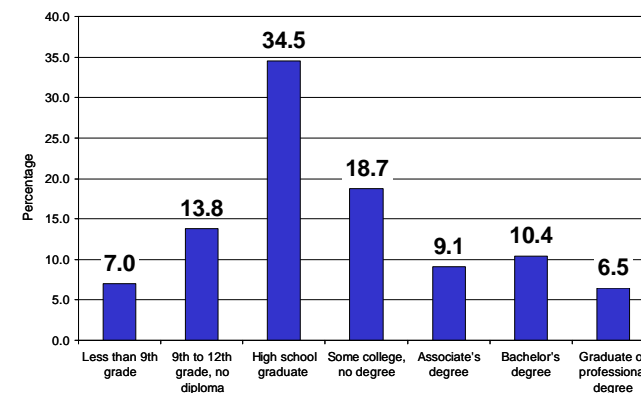
- Decreased from 44,590 in 2007 to 43,130 in 2008
- Employment dropped from 41,480 in 2007 to 39,420 in 2008.
- Unemployment rate rose from 7.0% in 2007 to 8.6% in 2008.

Unemployment Rates for Sumter County
2004 - 2008



Educational Attainment

Sumter County 2007



Per Capita Income

- County per capita income was \$27,580 for 2007.
- This was 89% of the state's per capita income of \$31,100.
- This was 71% of the national per capita income of \$38,620.

Unemployment Insurance Benefits

The Sumter Workforce Center, serving Sumter and Clarendon counties, paid \$13,355,559 in regular unemployment insurance benefits during 2008.



SC Employment Security Commission Labor Market Information

P O Box 995
Columbia, SC 29202
(803) 737-2660 / FAX: (803) 737-2838
(800) 205-9290 (outside the Columbia area)

<http://www.sces.org/lmi>